A story, set in Tajimi, about high schoolgirls and the Togei-bu, pottery club.
やくなら マグカップも
2
YAKUNARA MUG CUP MO
FREE MANGA

Thank you for taking the time to read this magazine. "Yakunara Mug Cup Mo" is a free publication put out by a group of people who love Tajimi. We call it "Kurukuru Rokuro Manga."

The city of Tajimi, located in the southern part of Gifu Prefecture, Japan, is famous for Mino earthenware. The city is dotted with historical pottery producers and ceramic art museums. It has facilities where you can try your hand at making pottery, and many restaurants that serve food on Minoware dishes.

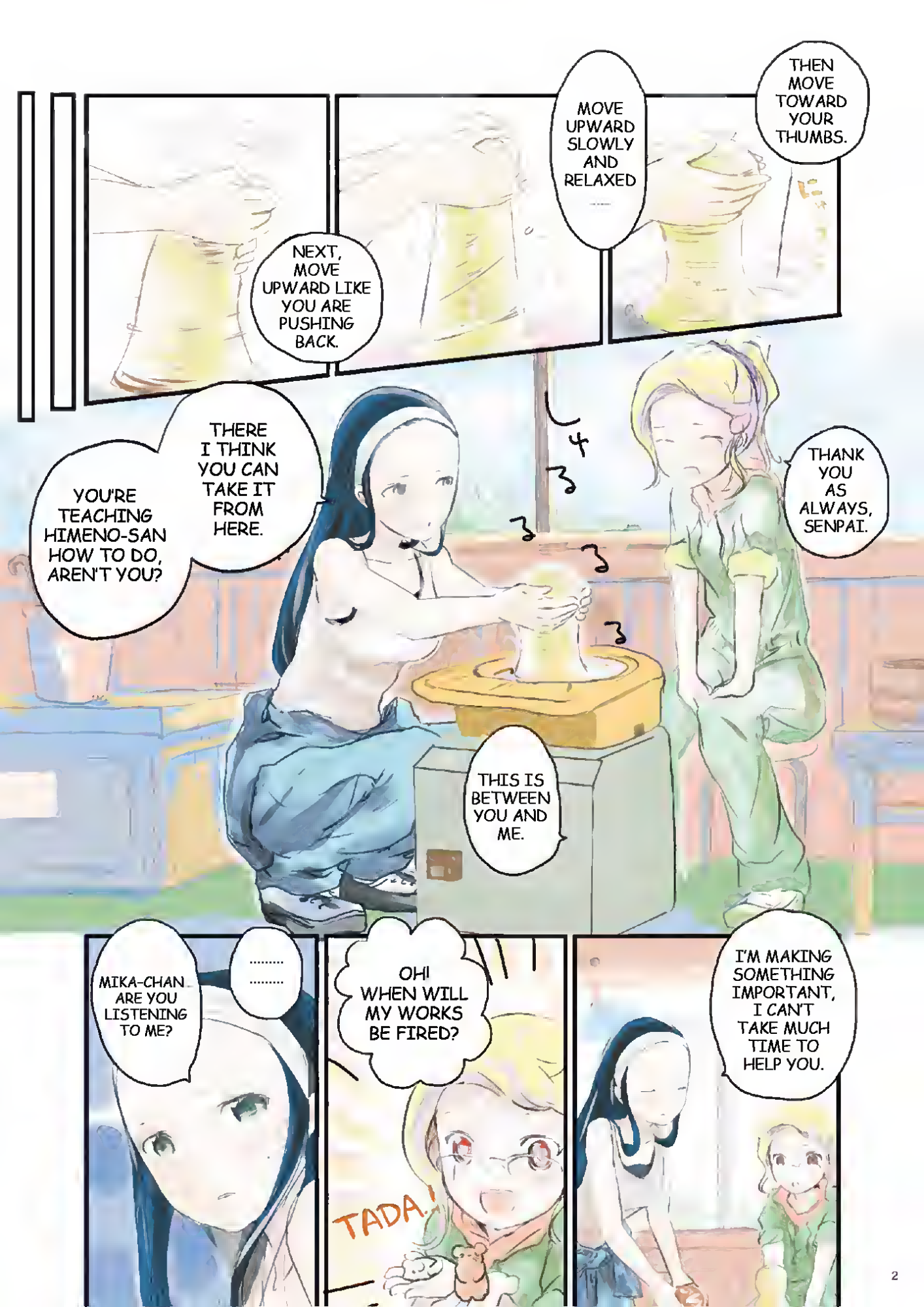
The story begins when a high school girl moves to a shopping street in Tajimi. Many encounters await her, friends, town folk, ceramic art, etc. What will she discover in a town famous for ceramics?

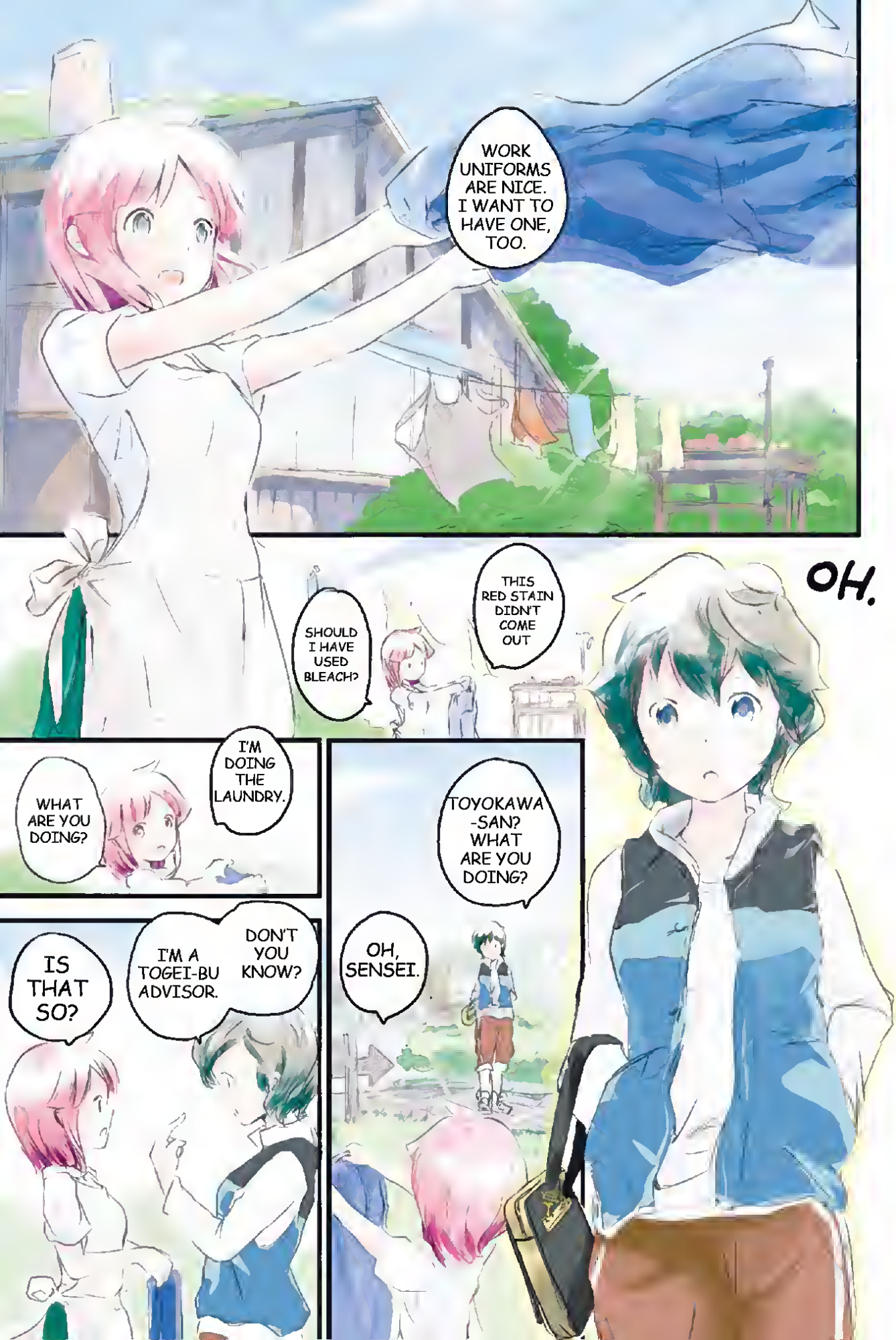
"Yakunara Mug Cup Mo" is a collaborative work by many people involved with Tajimi's pottery culture. Like it's main characters, "Yakunara Mug Cup Mo" will develop slowly. We invite you to watch it grow.

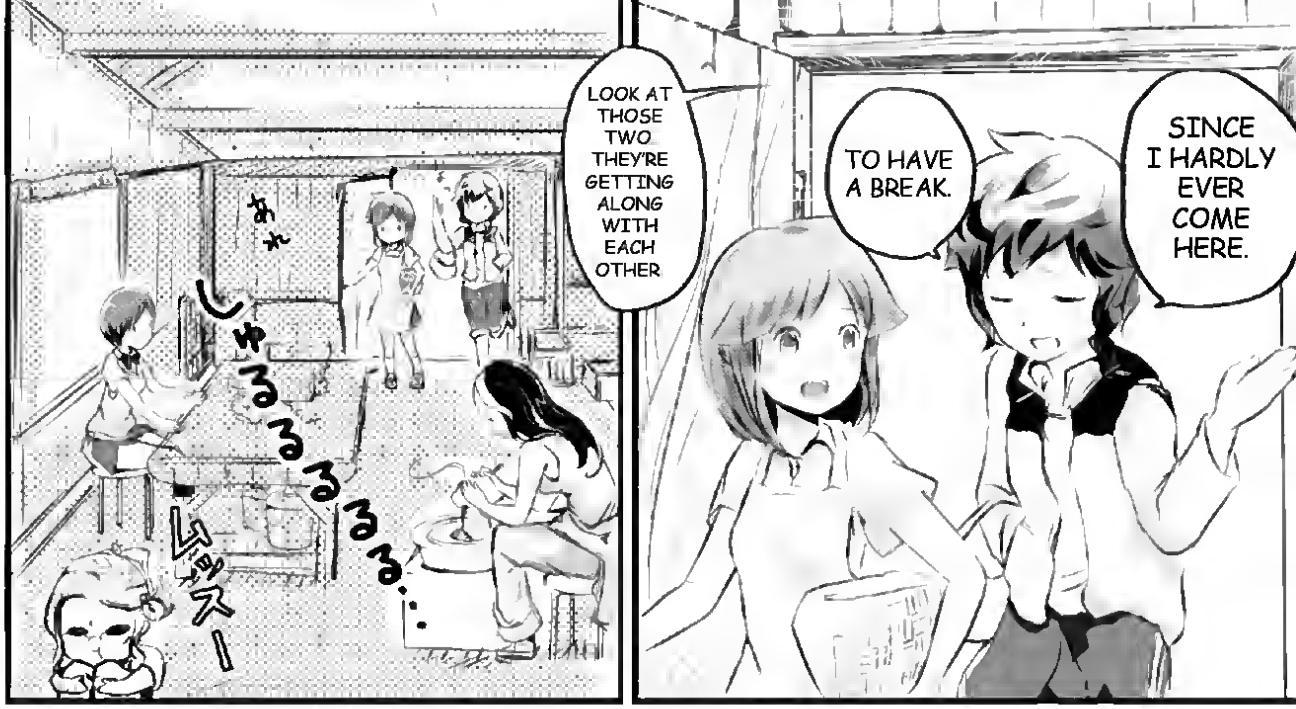
Yakunara Mug Cup Mo staff

EPISODE 02

Toko & Mika


THEN MOVE TOWARD YOUR THUMBS.
MOVE UPWARD SLOWLY AND RELAXED
NEXT, MOVE UPWARD LIKE YOU ARE PUSHING BACK.
THERE I THINK YOU CAN TAKE IT FROM HERE.
YOU'RE TEACHING HIMENO-SAN HOW TO DO, AREN'T YOU?
THANK YOU AS ALWAYS, SENPAI.
THIS IS BETWEEN YOU AND ME.
MIKA-CHAN ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
.....
.....
OH! WHEN WILL MY WORKS BE FIRED?
TADA!
I'M MAKING SOMETHING IMPORTANT, I CAN'T TAKE MUCH TIME TO HELP YOU.

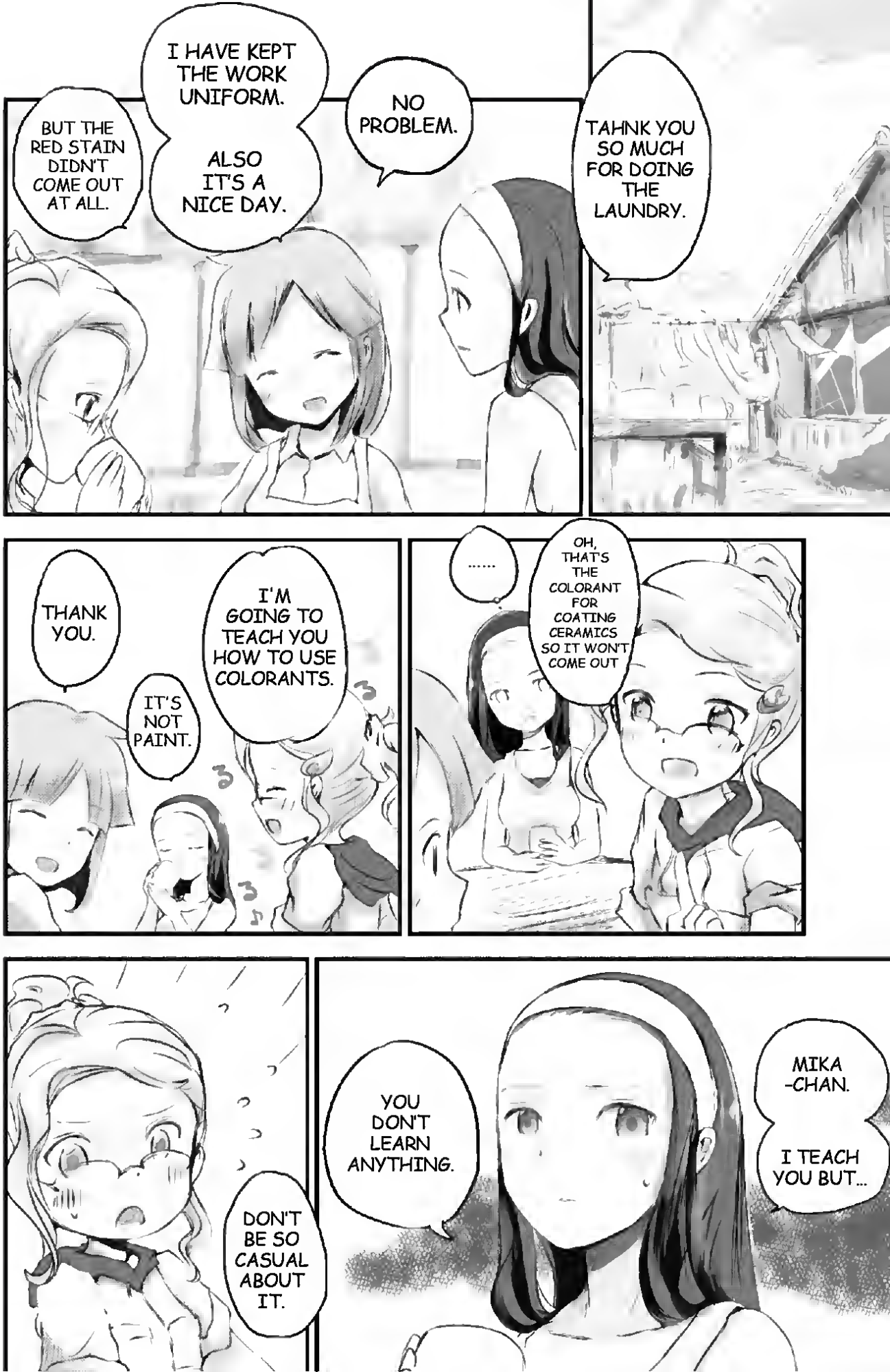

WORK UNIFORMS ARE NICE. I WANT TO HAVE ONE, TOO.
SHOULD I HAVE USED BLEACH?
THIS RED STAIN DIDN'T COME OUT
OH.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M DOING THE LAUNDRY.
TOYOKAWA -SAN? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OH, SENSEI.
IS THAT SO?
I'M A TOGEI-BU ADVISOR.
DON'T YOU KNOW?


LOOK AT THOSE TWO. THEY'RE GETTING ALONG WITH EACH OTHER
TO HAVE A BREAK.
SINCE I HARDLY EVER COME HERE.

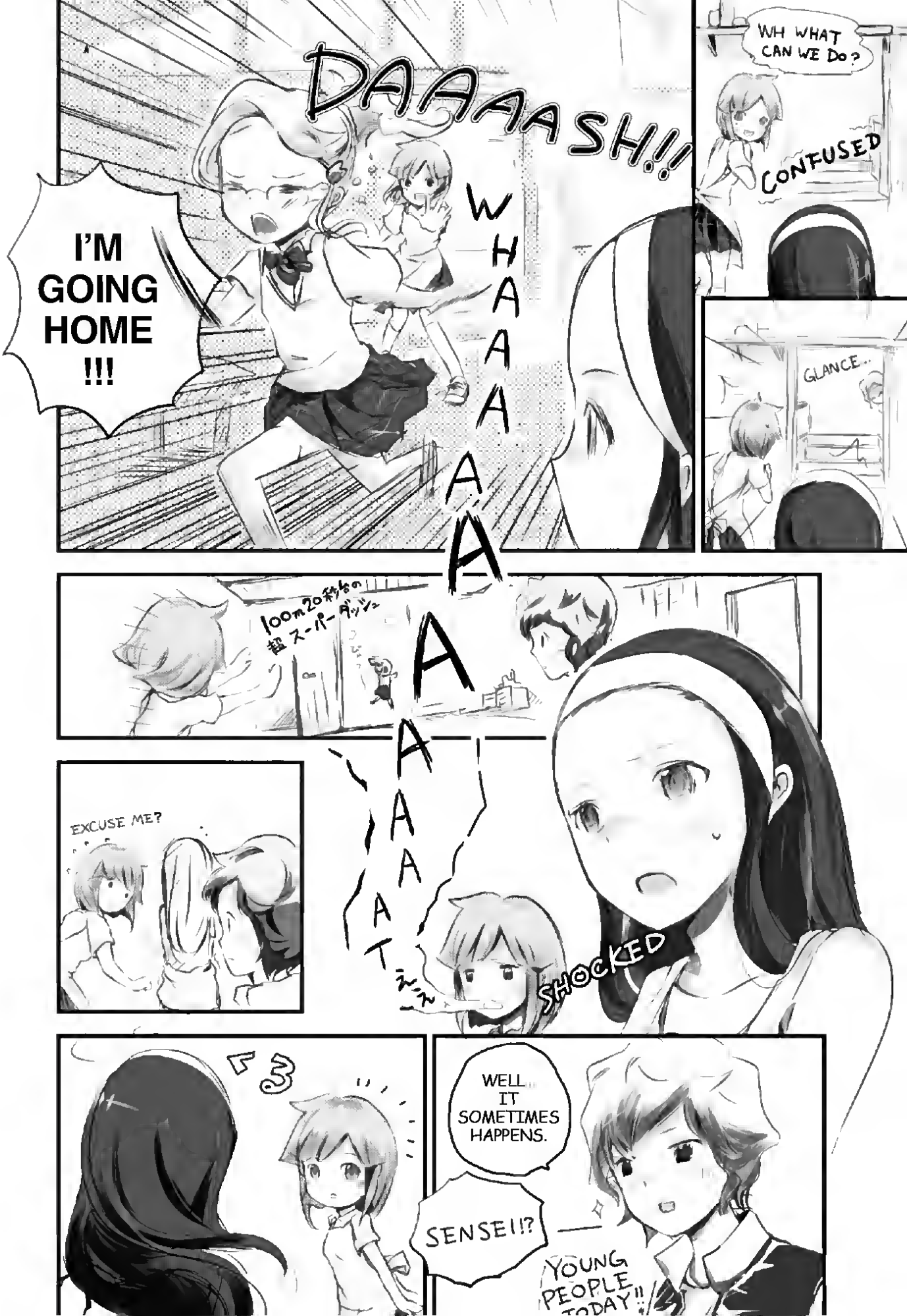
UH
WHAA AAA AAA AAT?

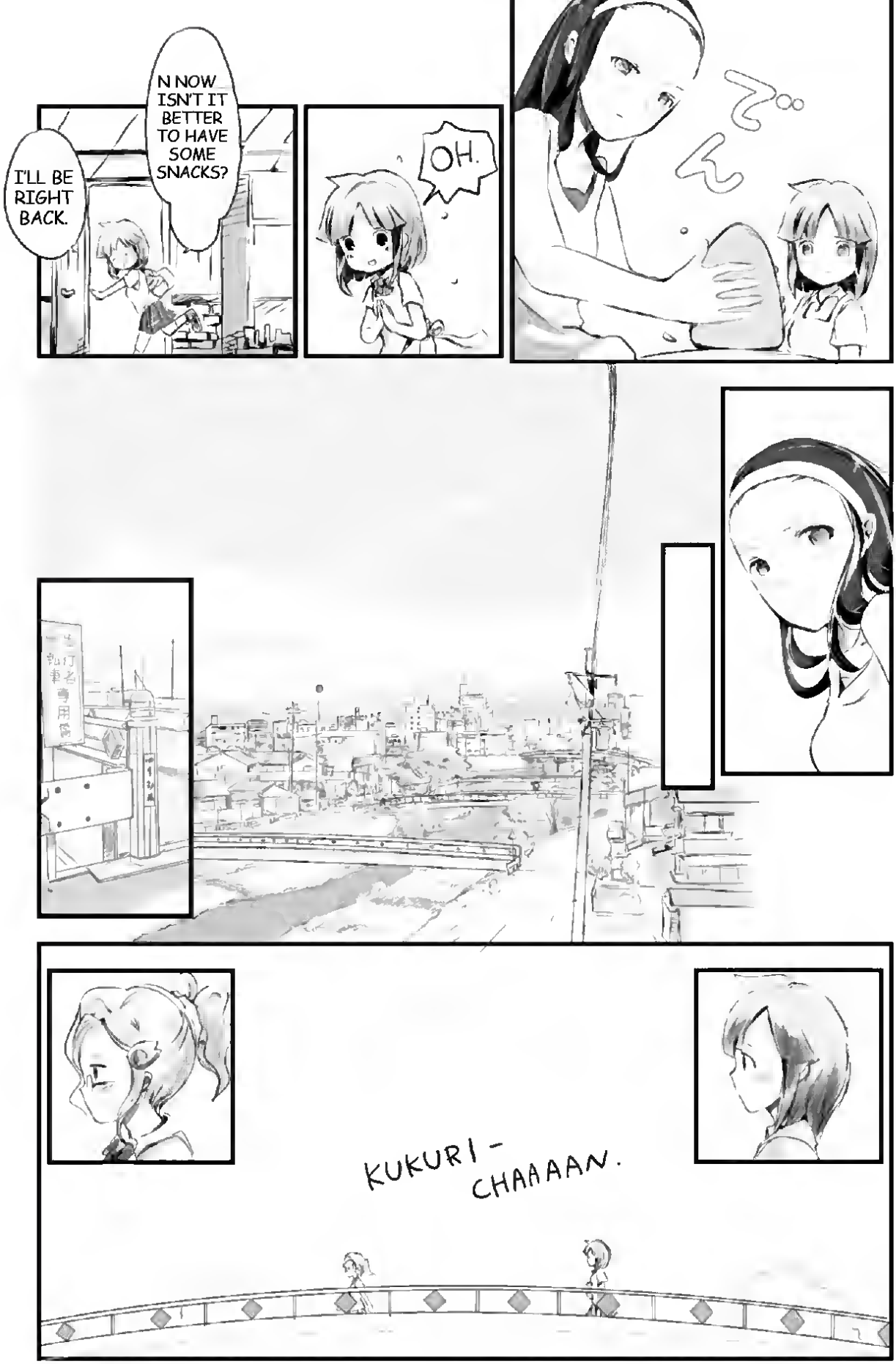
IT HAPPENS VERY OFTEN.
YES..... SOME TIMES.
THEY SOMETIMES QUARREL.
I'D PREFER A COFFEE.

DO YOU WANT TO TAKE A BREAK?
TOKO SENPAI.
GOOD!
I'M IMPRESSED YOU'RE WORKING HARD, TOKO-CHAN.
THANKS.
... YES ... ...
DO YOU WANT SOME TEA WITH SWEET PLUM?
HEY
TAP


I HAVE KEPT THE WORK UNIFORM.
ALSO IT'S A NICE DAY.
NO PROBLEM.
BUT THE RED STAIN DIDN'T COME OUT AT ALL.
TAHNK YOU SO MUCH FOR DOING THE LAUNDRY.
THANK YOU.
IT'S NOT PAINT.
I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU HOW TO USE COLORANTS.
.....
OH, THAT'S THE COLORANT FOR COATING CERAMICS SO IT WON'T COME OUT
DON'T BE SO CASUAL ABOUT IT.
YOU DON'T LEARN ANYTHING.
MIKA -CHAN.
I TEACH YOU BUT...

EH—
I'M HELPING.
YOU'RE NOT HELPING
IF YOU CAN'T TEACH HIMENO,
MAYBE I SHOULD
YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY.
THEY'RE CUTE. BUT
MIKA-CHAN, YOU HAVE BEEN JUST MAKING THINGS LIKE TOYS.
SO CUTE!
ANNOY-ING!
TODAY SENPAI IS
UH
THAT'S ENOUGH!
STOP IT!

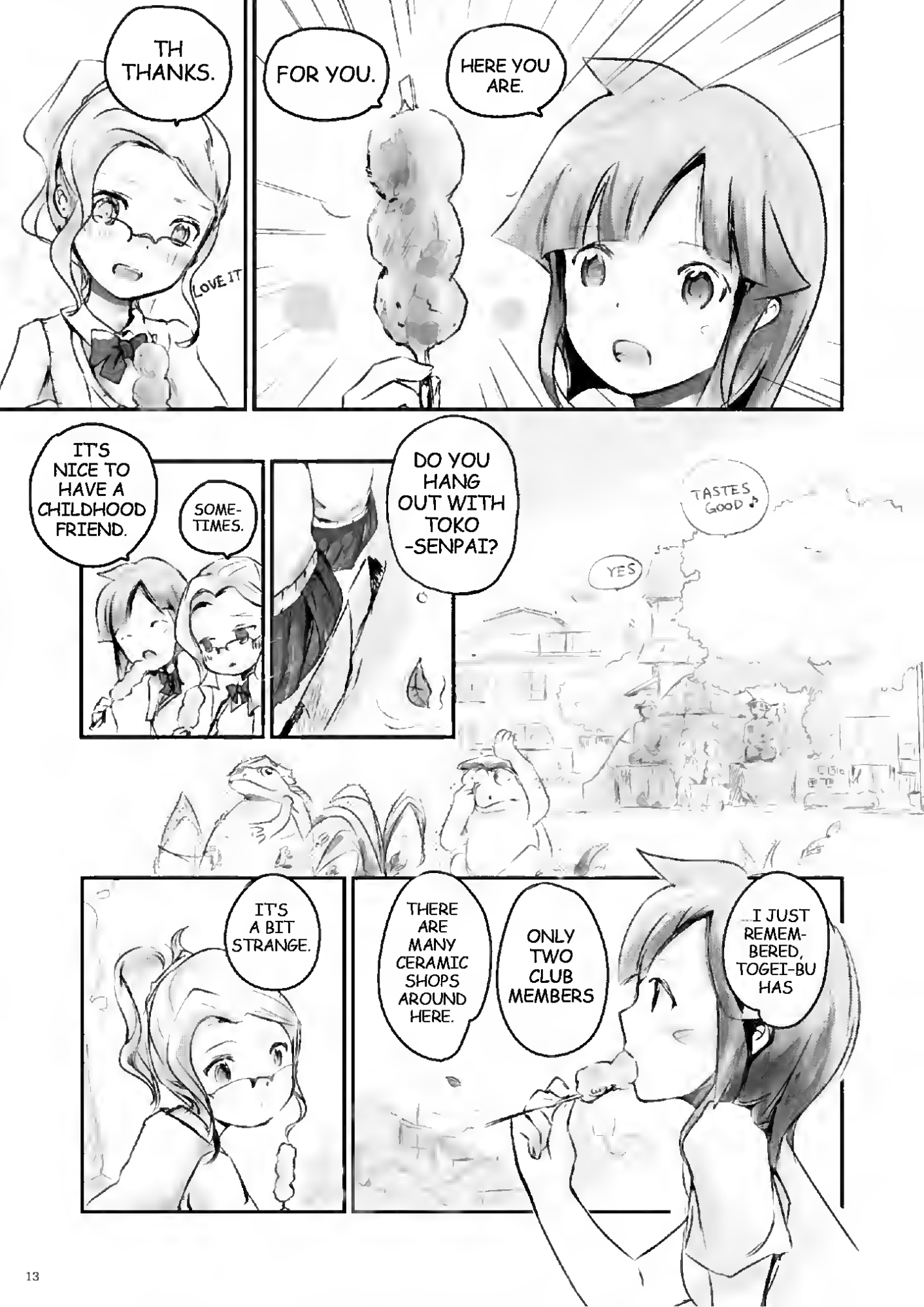

DAAAASH!!
I'M GOING HOME !!!
WHAAAAAAAA
WH WHAT CAN WE DO?
CONFUSED
GLANCE...
100m 20秒台の 超スーパーダッシュ
AAAAAAAT
SHOCKED
EXCUSE ME?
WELL... IT SOMETIMES HAPPENS.
SENSEI!?
YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY!!

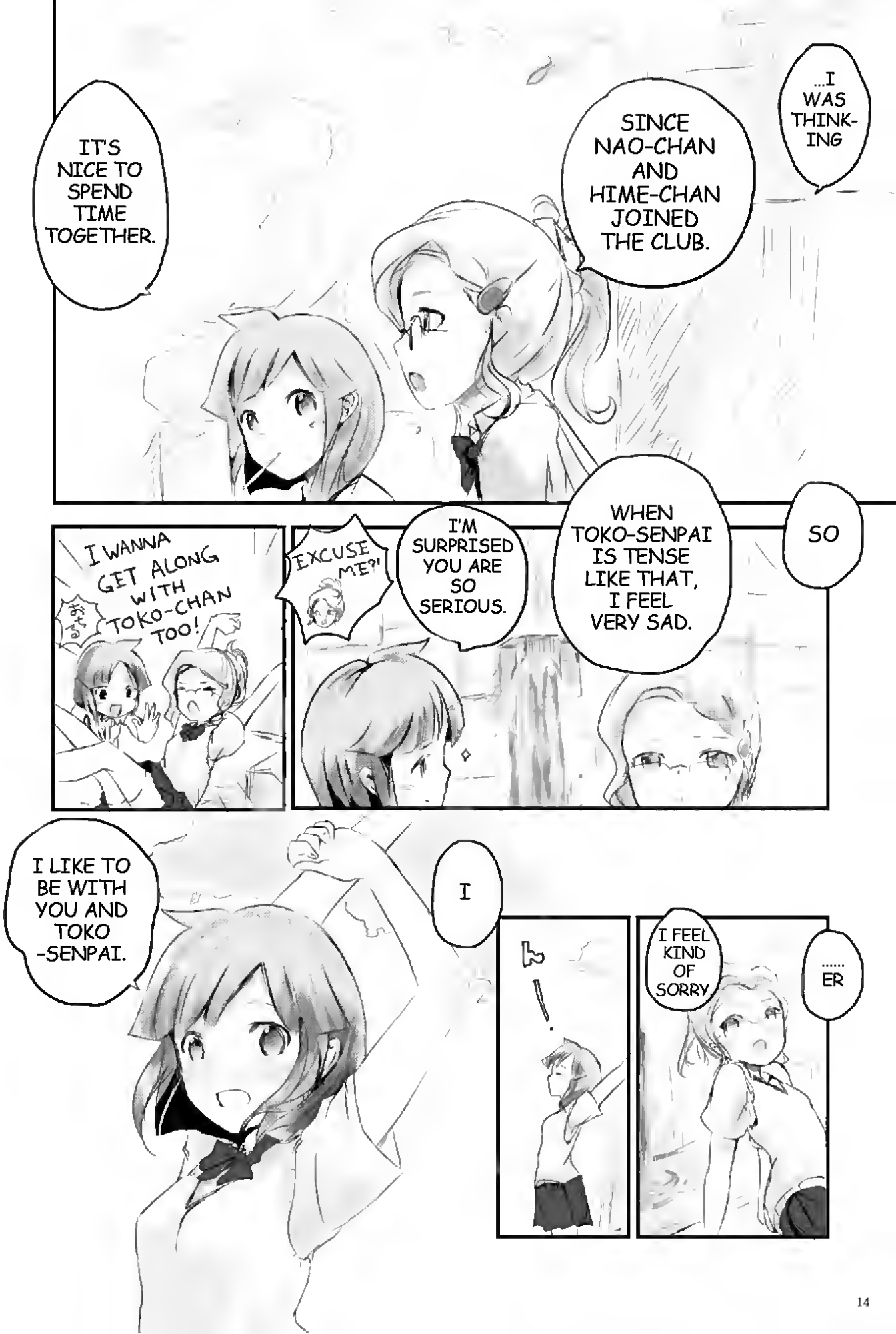

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
N NOW ISN'T IT BETTER TO HAVE SOME SNACKS?
OH.
KUKURI-CHAAAAN.

YOU DON'T NEED TO LEAVE, DO YOU? TOKO-SENPAI IS WORRRIED ABOUT YOU, TOO.
WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME? TOKO-SENPAI IS THE ONE WHO SHOULD CHASE AFTER ME!
WHAT A SELF-CENTERED GIRL?!
WELL, WHY ISN'T SHE FOLLOW-ING?
HUMPH
.....
WHAT?
SNACKS?
I'M BUYING SOME SNACKS. FORGET I'M HERE.
DON'T FOLLOW ME ANYMORE!

WELL ……
YOU DON'T NEED TO COME WITH ME.
……
KUKURI-CHAN, WHAT SNACKS DO YOU LIKE?
ER ……
LET'S SEE ……
HEY, LOOK HERE, THERE IS A CERAMIC SHOP.
I KNOW.
NOT SNACKS?
ARARE, RICE CRACKERS WITH YUZU FLAVORING.
OH.

WELL, THEY HAVE SOME NICE PIECES.
THAT IS BY A YOUNG CERAMIC ARTIST
THIS IS NEZUMI SHINO BY TATARA ZUKURI
.....
IF WE IMPROVE OUR SKILLS, WE'LL BE ABLE TO SELL OUR POTTERY TOO
BUT IT'S A BIT EXPENSIVE.
あ、
家計のピンチ!!
ヘェー
CAN I HAVE ONE?
WAIT FOR ME.
AHA!
こへいもち
SOMETHING SMELLS NICE!!


TH THANKS.
LOVE IT
FOR YOU.
HERE YOU ARE.
IT'S NICE TO HAVE A CHILDHOOD FRIEND.
SOME-TIMES.
DO YOU HANG OUT WITH TOKO -SENPAI?
TASTES GOOD ♪
YES
IT'S A BIT STRANGE.
THERE ARE MANY CERAMIC SHOPS AROUND HERE.
ONLY TWO CLUB MEMBERS
...I JUST REMEM-BERED, TOGEI-BU HAS


...I WAS THINK-ING
SINCE NAO-CHAN AND HIME-CHAN JOINED THE CLUB.
IT'S NICE TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER.
SO
WHEN TOKO-SENPAI IS TENSE LIKE THAT, I FEEL VERY SAD.
I'M SURPRISED YOU ARE SO SERIOUS.
EXCUSE ME?!
I WANNA GET ALONG WITH TOKO-CHAN TOO!
おさる
.....ER
I FEEL KIND OF SORRY
I
I LIKE TO BE WITH YOU AND TOKO -SENPAI.

NARUSE-SAN?
ARE YOU ALWAYS HERE?
AH... YES.
EH?
BECAUSE IT'S INTERESTING.
KUKURI-CHAN TALKS.
.....
HIME-CHAN MAKES MIS-TAKES.
EVEN TODAY, I'M PLAYING WITH YOU TEACHER.
HUH? ARE YOU PLAYING WITH ME!?
I'M JUST KIDDING
YOU READ VERY QUICKLY.
AND
TOKO-SAN
IS KIND.
SHE HELPS ME A LOT.

AND

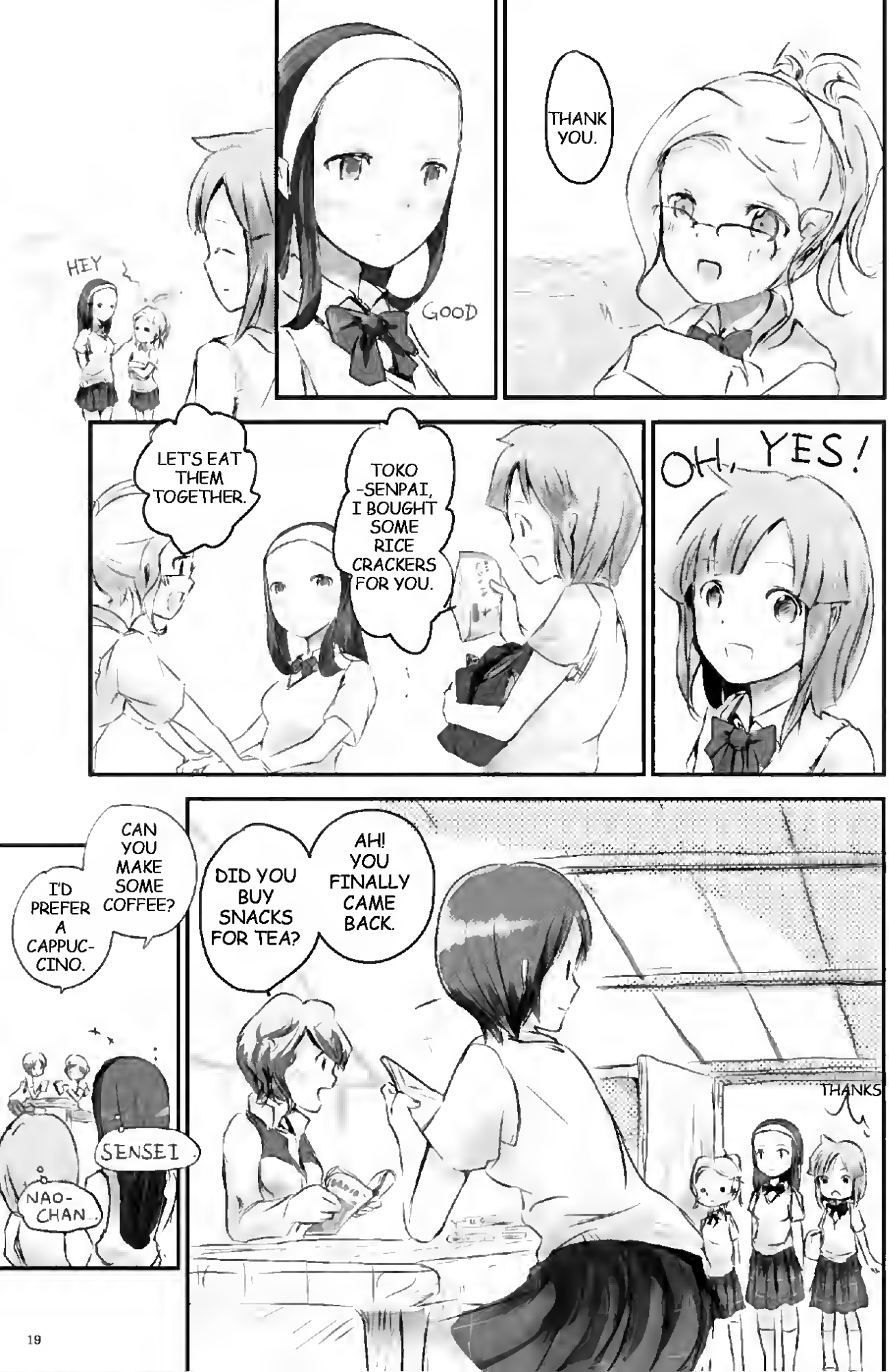
UH-HA
UM.

REALLY?

YOUR BAG?
OH,NO!
LET'S HEAD BACK SOON.
NO, NOT TODAY.

トン
トン
ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE IT TO HER?
THAT ONE.
TAP
NO REALLY LET'S NOT
NO, I'TS OKAY I'LL BE TOKO-SENPAI
ER... WELL...
... ... WELL
SQUEAK

NEVER MIND, MIKA-CHAN. PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
I'LL NEVER BOTHER YOU AGAIN.
I'M SORRY TOKO –SENPAIIIII!
SURPRISED!
YES.
HERE.
KYAAAAAAA
WE WERE PRACTICING WHAT TO SAY TO YOU... HA HA HA


HEY
GOOD
THANK YOU.
LET'S EAT THEM TOGETHER.
TOKO -SENPAI, I BOUGHT SOME RICE CRACKERS FOR YOU.
OH, YES!
CAN YOU MAKE SOME COFFEE?
I'D PREFER A CAPPUC-CINO.
DID YOU BUY SNACKS FOR TEA?
AH! YOU FINALLY CAME BACK.
SENSEI
NAO-CHAN
THANKS

Club activities in high school in Japan

The Ministry of Education says bukatsudo(club activities) should be considered relevant to a curriculum. Over 70 percent of all high school students (grades 10–12) are involved in bukatsudo. 3/4 of those are 10th grade students. About 80 percent of all students do club activities inside or outside the school. Most of them do sports, the rest of them belong to cultural clubs. Over 80 percent of students say that they enjoy their club activities.

Club activities in high schools of Tajimi.

Sports clubs	Cultural clubs
Track and field	Brass band
Swimming	Chorus
Soft baseball	Music
Baseball	Fine art
Table tennis	Art and design
Judo	European painting
Kendo(Japanese fencing)	Natural science
Japanese archery	Broadcasting
Volleyball	Literature
Basketball	Calligraphy
Handball	Photography
Badminton	Pottery
Soccer	Tea ceremony and flower arrangement
Boxing	Robot making
Soft tennis	Mechanical system engineering
Tennis	Electronics
	Drama
	Japanese harp
	Cartoon
	Quiz
	The Community Interaction Club
	Clothes making
	Computer
	Cooking
	Dance
	ESS English Speaking Society
	Broadcasting
	Bookkeeping

A senior, a junior and an advisor

Seniors instruct juniors, and they work together. Each club has more than one school teacher as an advisor. When a high degree of specialist knowledge is required for the club, a coach(from outside the school) is asked for assistance. Students can make up their minds what club to join, so many of them do activities independently.

Toko and Mika, character in Yakunara Mug Cup Mo

Toko has good knowledge of and excellent skills for the Togei-bu, pottery club. Mika enjoys making things freestyle. Toko is Mika's senior at high school. They have known each other since childhood, so they are like sisters. As they grow up, they learn about not only Togei (pottery) but good manners, respect, and considerate attitudes together.

Photos courtesy of Tajimnisi High School

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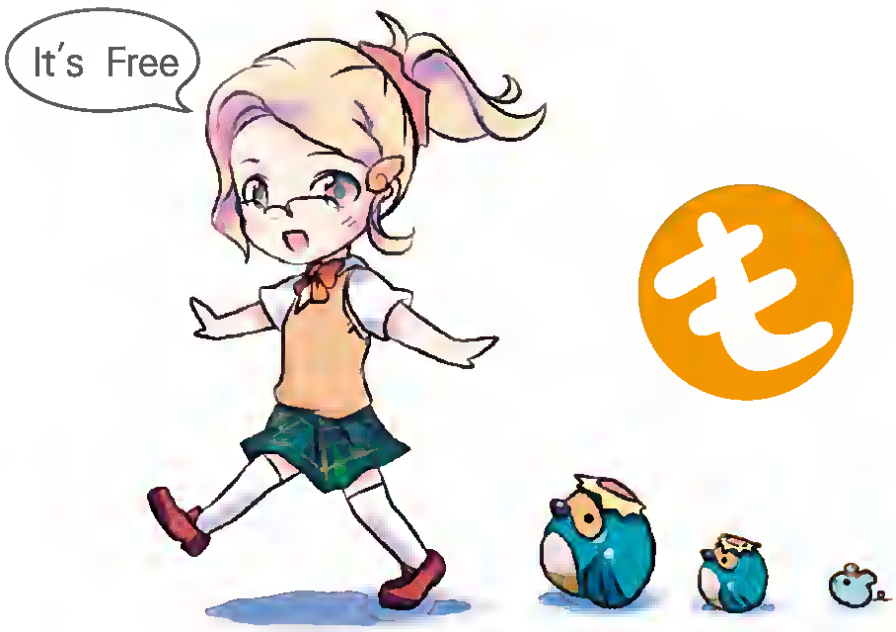

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